29 MAR 1983

MEMORANDUM FOR: Deputy Director of Central Intelligence

25X1   FROM:

Executive Director

SUBJECT: Community Information Retrieval System

1. My apologies for not responding sooner to your request
for personal comments on the Information Handling Committee's
(IHC) plan for developing a Community Information Retrieval
25X1 System (CIRS). When [   ] CIA's representative to the
IHC, endorsed the plan last summer, I assumed that we were
committed formally.

2. I agree that CIRS is a worthwhile project and assure you
that the Agency will cooperate fully in its development --
although our SAFE system does not become heavily involved until
the final phase. I share your concern about the potential
security hazards of access to Community-wide information files.
Perhaps the best way to identify and deal with such hazards is
through active participation in the CIRS Security Working
Group. The same holds true for the retrieval codes and
telecommunications groups. I particularly endorse the proposal
to review each phase's progress before proceeding to the next
phase.

3. One aspect of the CIRS plan still concerns me -- the
25X1 management of the CIRS Project. I suspect that [   ] and
others in the IC Staff would agree that they are not in the best
position to manage a project of this scope. Either a single
project manager should be named from one of the agencies or
rotating management should be designated with each agency
responsible for the phase in which that agency is most heavily
involved. (For CIA, this would be Phase V starting in about
1990.) I am not wedded to this idea, but some more formal and
effective management mechanism will need to be found.

25X1   4. For our part, we are already underway. [   ] of
ODP has been named the CIA representative to CIRS, and
representatives to all the CIRS working groups will be named
shortly. With always a wary eye for icebergs -- full speed
ahead!

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